

I spent my vacation last week going over the new frameworks for fifth grade. I have been teaching fifth grade for the past 16 years, and I love social studies.

I am very encouraged how the new framework lays out books and discussions as well as how it uses primary source documents much more.

Upon examination of the pages, I agreed with many. However, I feel there are some discrepancies in certain areas. The Land and People before Columbus and the Age of Exploration were well done. I liked how books were incorporated into Cooperation and conflict in North America. However, when it came to the Settling of the Colonies, I started seeing errors in language and content. Page 133 has incomplete questions and commas are missing. On page 134, it stated that "family farms flourished in New England". I beg to disagree with that as the soil was very rocky and poor for farming. The Middle Colonies had rich farmland.

On page 136. I see the intent is to bring slavery into an emotional topic. In fifth grade we have usually kept slavery as viewed as an economic reason. This is usually something that they delve much deeper into in eighth and 10th when they study this area as well as ninth touches on it too.

On page 137, I like the dramatizations and mock town hall meetings. Would these be in the books that we pilot and then purchase?

On page 138, we have never discussed the differences between the Pilgrims and Puritans. With everything that we have to teach, I believe this may constitute one paragraph in the textbook. As far as "41 saints" signed the Compact, I believe this is not accurate. I think some of these 41 signers were actually the ship captain as well as some people who were their for "adventure".

On page 139, I am not sure that "than in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when more men spent time working away from home." is appropriate. I would delete this part.

Page 143, the Coercive Acts only punished Boston citizens.

On page 149, George Washington never fought a battle in Boston, he was there right after Battle of Bunker Hill, but he never fought a battle during the Siege of Boston.

Thank you for allowing my input into the Frameworks for Social Studies. I think with these minor corrections we will have a much more comprehensive fifth grade history framework.

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